
The Fund

The Local Agency Investment Fund

The Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) is a voluntary program created by statute in 1977 as an investment alternative for California's local governments and special districts and continues today under Treasurer Phil Angelides' administration. The enabling legislation for the LAIF is Section 16429.1 et seq. of the California Government Code.

This program offers local agencies the opportunity to participate in a major portfolio, which invests hundreds of millions of dollars, using the investment expertise of the Treasurer's Office investment staff at no additional cost to the taxpayer. This in-house management team is comprised of civil servants who have each worked for the State Treasurer's Office for an average of 20 years.

The LAIF is part of the Pooled Money Investment Account (PMIA). The PMIA began in 1953 and oversight is provided by the Pooled Money Investment Board (PMIB) and an in-house Investment Committee. The PMIB members are the State Treasurer, Director of Finance, and State Controller.

The Local Investment Advisory Board (LIAB) provides oversight for LAIF. The Board consists of five members as designated by statute. The Chairman is the State Treasurer or his designated representative. Two members qualified by training and experience in the field of investment or finance, and two members who are treasurers, finance or fiscal officers or business managers employed by any county, city or local district or municipal corporation of this state, are appointed by the State Treasurer. The term of each appointment is two years or at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

All securities are purchased under the authority of Government Code Section 16430 and 16480.4. The State Treasurer's Office takes delivery of all securities purchased on a delivery versus payment basis using a third party custodian. All investments are purchased at market, and a market valuation is conducted monthly.

Additionally, the PMIA has Policies, Goals and Objectives for the portfolio to make certain that our goals of Safety, Liquidity and Yield are not jeopardized and that prudent management prevails. These policies are formulated by investment staff and reviewed by both the PMIB and the LIAB on an annual basis.

The State Treasurer's Office is audited by the Bureau of State Audits on an annual basis and the resulting opinion is posted to the STO website following its publication. The Bureau of State Audits also has a continuing audit process throughout the year. All investment and LAIF claims are audited on a daily basis by the State Controller's Office as well as an in-house audit process involving three separate divisions.

Under Federal Law, the State of California cannot declare bankruptcy, thereby allowing the Government Code Section 16429.3 to stand. This Section states that “moneys placed with the Treasurer for deposit in the LAIF by cities, counties, special districts, nonprofit corporations, or qualified quasi-governmental agencies shall not be subject to either of the following: (a) transfer or loan pursuant to Sections 16310, 16312, or 16313, or (b) impoundment or seizure by any state official or state agency.”

During the 2002 legislative session, California Government Code Section 16429.4 was added to the LAIF’s enabling legislation. The Section states that “the right of a city, county, city and county, special district, nonprofit corporation, or qualified quasi-governmental agency to withdraw its deposited moneys from the LAIF, upon demand, may not be altered, impaired, or denied in any way, by any state official or state agency based upon the state’s failure to adopt a State Budget by July 1 of each new fiscal year.”

The LAIF has grown from 293 participants and \$468 million in 1977 to 2,750 participants and \$19.8 billion in 2004.

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Local Agency Investment Fund
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